

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A cord tensioner for a guide cord of a cord-guided blind which has an upper rail, a lower rail and a blind material extending between the upper and lower rails and in which the upper rail, the lower rail or both is movable; the cord tensioner being attached to the upper or lower rail; and wherein the cord tensioner includes a compression spring and the guide cord engages the spring so that a pulling force on the guide cord compresses the spring.
2. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 1, wherein the cord tensioner further includes a housing containing the spring.
3. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 2, wherein the housing includes an abutment member, against which the spring can be compressed by the cord, when it is pulled.
4. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 3, wherein the housing further includes a hollow longitudinally-extending interior space, in which the spring can expand longitudinally when not being pulled by the guide cord, and an opening, through which the cord can enter the interior space longitudinally, the abutment member being located within the opening.
5. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 4 wherein the interior space of the housing is cylindrical with a diameter greater than the diameter of the spring and a length that is at least equal to the length of the spring.
6. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 5 wherein the abutment member is an inturned rim of the housing at a longitudinal end thereof.
7. (New) The cord tensioner of any of claims 1-6, wherein the cord tensioner is within a fixed rail of the blind and the guide cord includes a top and a bottom cord end, one of which engages the spring.

8. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 7, wherein the housing is integrally or partly integrally formed with the upper and/or lower rail.
9. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 7, wherein the housing is an elongated cradle like member formed integrally with the upper and/or lower rail and has an elongated lid like member for closing the cradle and containing the spring.
10. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 7 wherein the blind contains a pair of the cord tensioners in the same upper or lower rail, arranged as mirror images in the blind and attached to different guide cords.
11. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 7, wherein the cord tensioner includes an attachment member for engaging the guide cord to the spring; the attachment member being mounted inside the housing in engagement with the spring and having a diameter larger than the diameter of the spring.
12. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 11 wherein the blind contains a pair of the cord tensioners in the same upper or lower rail, arranged as mirror images in the blind and attached to different guide cords.
13. (New) The cord tensioner of any of claims 1-6, wherein the cord tensioner is within a movable upper or lower rail of the blind and the guide cord has a loop, between its ends, which engages the spring, so that there is a slidable connection between the cord tensioner and the guide cord.
14. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 13, wherein the housing is integrally or partly integrally formed with the upper and/or lower rail.

15. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 13, wherein the housing is an elongated cradle like member formed integrally with the upper and/or lower rail and has an elongated lid like member for closing the cradle and containing the spring.

16. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 13, wherein the blind contains a pair of the cord tensioners in the same upper or lower rail, arranged as mirror images in the blind and attached to different guide cords.

17. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 13, wherein the cord tensioner includes an attachment member for engaging the guide cord to the spring; the attachment member being mounted inside the housing in engagement with the spring and having a diameter larger than the diameter of the spring.

18. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 17, wherein the blind contains a pair of the cord tensioners in the same upper or lower rail, arranged as mirror images in the blind and attached to different guide cords.

19. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 18, wherein the attachment member includes longitudinally-extending cord grooves, along which the guide cord can slide longitudinally.

20. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 19, wherein the attachment member includes a rotatable cord pulley.

21. (New) The cord tensioner of claim 20, wherein the blind contains a pair of the cord tensioners in the same upper or lower rail, arranged as mirror images in the blind and attached to different guide cords.